

Administration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr., 2023

Statement on the Expulsion of State Representatives Justin Jones and Justin J. Pearson From the Tennessee House of Representatives
April 6, 2023

Last week, three more students and three school officials were gunned down in yet another tragic mass shooting in Nashville. On Monday, 7,000 Tennesseans, many of them students, marched to their State capitol to call on their lawmakers to take action and keep them safe.

Instead, State Republican lawmakers called votes today to expel three Democratic legislators who stood in solidarity with students and families and helped lift their voices. Today's expulsion of lawmakers who engaged in peaceful protest is shocking, undemocratic, and without precedent. Rather than debating the merits of the issue, these Republican lawmakers have chosen to punish, silence, and expel duly-elected representatives of the people of Tennessee.

A strong majority of Americans want lawmakers to act on commonsense gun safety reforms that we know will save lives. But instead, we've continued to see Republican officials across America double down on dangerous bills that make our schools, places of worship, and communities less safe. Our kids continue to pay the price.

Congress must ban assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, require safe storage of firearms, eliminate gun manufacturers' immunity from liability, and require background checks for all gun sales, and State officials must do the same.

NOTE: The statement referred to Tennessee State Rep. Gloria Johnson, who narrowly survived an expulsion vote in the Tennessee House of Representatives on April 6.

Categories: Statements by the President : Tennessee House of Representatives, expulsion of State Reps. Justin Jones and Justin J. Pearson.

Names: Johnson, Gloria; Jones, Justin; Pearson, Justin J.

Subjects: Gun control efforts; Gun violence, prevention efforts; Tennessee, expulsion of State Reps. from House of Representatives; Tennessee, shooting in Nashville.

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